

erved on the principle of disturbing as little as possible the political institutions which had existed before the conquest—much as in China proper they ruled their new subjects through the machinery to which the latter were accustomed—but exercised a fairly close oversight by planting Manchu officials supported by garrisons at strategic centers, by keeping up communication with these, and by insisting upon the right to appoint, or at least to confirm, all heads of important local units. Most of the peoples of Mongolia and Sinkiang were allowed to maintain something of their old tribal and family organization, although the Manchus often sought to group them in such a manner as to bring about a coalescence between some of the tribes and so to weaken old tribal loyalties. Colonists were brought into some regions, more-over, as a rule from Manchuria or the western portion of China proper, in the attempt to strengthen Manchu control. The local unit was usually the Banner, each Banner being composed of about fifty or more adult males capable of bearing arms. In the majority of instances the Banner had at its head a chieftain or *dzassak*. The *dzassak* held his post by virtue of imperial appointment, but generally in practice also by heredity. In turn the Banners were often grouped by tribes. In Inner Mongolia, where the control of Peking was more minutely exercised and the organization had some resemblance to that of China proper, the tribes were organized into leagues. Outer Mongolia was divided into four large regions. At important towns and cities, such as Urga, Yarkand, and Turfan, Manchu officials of varying grades were placed, for the most part supported by troops. The quality of the holders of these positions often suffered

from the practice
of using many of them as posts to which to exile
officials who for
some reason, possibly for serious moral
delinquency, had incurred
the imperial displeasure. Over the administration
of the peoples
of Mongolia and of much of Sinkiang was the *Li*
Fan *Yiian* at
Peking.

Connecting Peking with the most important
centers in these
outlying dependencies were post routes, diligently
maintained.

The submission of the peoples of these regions was
further sought
by the practice of according titles to influential
individuals and
by requiring periodical visits to Peking of
important natives,
either in person or by proxy.